

## Travel Guidance Security Message Template

### **United States Embassy Dakar, Senegal Security Message for U.S. Citizens Zika Virus**

**March 13, 2017**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued Travel Guidance for Guinea Bissau regarding the risk of [Zika virus infection](#). Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should discuss their travel plans with their medical provider and consider postponing nonessential travel to Guinea Bissau. Men whose partners are pregnant or are considering pregnancy should talk to their medical provider about [CDC's recommendations](#) on how to avoid sexual transmission of Zika infection to their partners.

The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of [microcephaly](#) and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to some infected mothers. Zika virus is typically transmitted by the day biting Aedes aegypti mosquito, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission.

For general information and the latest updates about Zika and steps to prevent mosquito bites and sexual exposure to the virus, please visit the [CDC website](#).

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Senegal Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, located at 49 Route des Almadies +221 33 879 4000, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. on Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +221 33 879 4000 , or +221 33 879 4444.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
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